

December 1997
Project Manager: Steve Bredthauer

PORT OF MORROW COUNTY, OREGON

Fact Sheet

AUTHORITY: Construction General, Continuing Authorities Program, Section 107
SPONSOR: Port of Morrow
STUDY PHASE: Feasibility

LOCATION: Port of Morrow is near Boardman, Oregon on the Columbia River, in the John Day Pool (approximately River Mile 271). Boardman is approximately 160 miles east of Portland on Interstate 84.

PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES: Most barge loading areas at the Port of Morrow are subject to the high winds of the Columbia River Gorge. Given these conditions, tows must be tied to dolphins offshore and disassembled before loading and unloading. This results in relatively high operating times in dropping off and picking up barges and subsequently higher operating costs. A turning basin is proposed to allow barge operators to drop off and pick up barges without having to first tie off to moorings and disassemble the barges one at a time from the tow. With a turning basin, operators would have additional maneuvering room to drop off a barge from the end of their tow or pick up a loaded barge without disassembling the tow. Environmental studies and possible project impacts may be a significant consideration in this effort.

ALTERNATIVE PLANS: One proposed alternative is a turning basin at the Port of Morrow, as described in the 1990 Reconnaissance Report. In that report, the construction cost was estimated to be around \$1,100,000 and the benefits exceeded the costs. An incremental analysis will be conducted during the feasibility study to determine the optimal depth.

STATUS: The Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and Project Study Plan are being prepared to continue the feasibility study after the initial \$100,000 in Federal funds have been expended. The feasibility study will provide a detailed study of the turning basin proposal, as well as consider other viable alternatives. An early milestone of this study will confirm that a federal interest exists.

SCHEDULE:	
Sign FCSA	April 1998
Federal Interest Milestone	September 1998
Complete Feasibility Study	September 1999

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S): The study is within Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, represented by Bob Smith.